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# LIBRARY LOOKOUT

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Issued Quarterly by the West Virginia  
Library Commission  
Clara B. Johnson, Executive Secretary

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### INVITATION TO PITTSBURGH

The Pittsburgh Library Club, Chapter of the American Library Association, and the Pittsburgh Chapter, Special Libraries Association, are sponsoring an institute on the library's part in the period of demobilization and readjustment now and after the war to be held Friday, April 21, in the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Mr. Carl Vitz, librarian of the Minneapolis Public Library and President-elect of A. L. A., will be the principal speaker. Miss Eleanor Cavanaugh, President of S. L. A. will also speak.

Miss Margaret J. Griffin, president of the Library Club, has written, "We would be very happy to have librarians from West Virginia attend the meeting. Is there any way you could spread the news for us?" We at the Library Commission are glad to call the Institute to the attention of West Virginians through the Library Lookout and we hope many librarians, trustees, and friends will find it possible to attend. Please consider this your personal invitation.

At the afternoon session at 2:00 P. M. in the Lecture Hall Dr. Herbert L. Spencer, President of Pennsylvania College for Women, will be one of the speakers representing business, educational and social agencies who will present plans for this demobilization period. These plans will be related to libraries by discussion.

At 4:30 P. M. Miss Jean Roos, Supervisor of the Youth Department of the Cleveland Public Library, will speak on "Youth After the War."

At the evening session following dinner at the University Club Mr. Carl Vitz will speak on the subject "Demobilization and the Library." At this session, too, Miss Eleanor Cavanaugh of New York, President of the Special Libraries Association, will speak.

For those who plan to attend, the Library Club asks that the following pre-registration form be sent in.

The Schenley Hotel and Webster Hall are suggested as being most convenient for those staying over nights.

.....Cut on dotted line.....

Name

Library

Registration fee for full session ..... \$ 1.00

Registration fee for single session ..... .50

Informal dinner, University Club,  
123 University Place, 7:00 P.M. .... 2.00  
Please check: Meat ( ) Fish ( )

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for dinner.

Make check payable to Pittsburgh Library Club and return this slip not later than April 15 to:  
Adaline Bernstein, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh,  
4400 Forbes Street, Pittsburgh 13, Pa. Please indicate individual names if payment is made for more than one person.

## LIBRARY SERVICES IN DEMOBILIZATION

What can your library do for the soldier who has already come home from the war? How can you help him readjust to civilian life? Have you thought about the place your library can fill in the community as a vocational counseling agency when general demobilization takes place? Returning soldiers will need to improve their working skills, to secure specialized training for employment. A checklist in the March 1944 A.L.A. Bulletin suggests that libraries provide books and pamphlets and visual aids on vocational materials adapted to their area and then cooperate with schools, business, chamber of commerce, unions, veterans' organizations and other community groups to get the reading materials used by the men who need them.

The Library Commission has to offer a number of books on vocations and mechanical trades, on engineering and science, shopwork and crafts. Any librarian may borrow titles needed by her patrons. Persons living in towns without libraries may write directly for the books they want. Loans are made for one month and a four week renewal privilege is allowed. The only cost is postage.

The booklist enclosed, "The Job for You," should be given some publicity in your town. Men and women wanting information to help them get ahead in war industry, in civilian work, or in readjustment after military service deserve all the assistance we can give them. Take some time to make this service of the Library Commission known in your community.

## KNOW WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

On the cover of this issue of the Library Look-out is pictured the Carnegie Library at Parkersburg.

Miss Anna E. Taylor, the librarian, has very obligingly sent us the following interesting story about it.

"In January 1904 the Board of Education started negotiations for a library building with Mr. Carnegie. So quickly was the project carried out the grant for \$34,000 was accomplished in June 1904. The Board of Education supplied the lot at the corner of Green and Eighth Streets. The buff brick and stone trimmed building was opened to the public October fifth 1905. The library has continued under the direction of the Board of Education and since 1934 has been supported by the maintenance fund. The budget for the year ending June 30, 1943 was \$6,100.

On the first floor of the building is the reading room, the children's room, cataloging room, delivery desk and entrance to the book stacks. On the second floor are offices used by the three Superintendents of Schools.

In the basement are located the offices of the Attendance Officer, also the School nurses.

The book stacks are located at the back of the library equipped with metal shelves and glass floors. The library contains 32,000 books. The book circulation for the year ending June 30, 1943 was 67,938.

The library gives special consideration to the needs of the pupils of Washington Junior High School which is located next door. At the beginning of each semester the new pupils come to the library for instruction. They depend upon this library for their reading course books also reference work.

The library is also busy with other reference work. Those who prepare programs and material for

the clubs of the city. Teachers who want material on war work, also those who are preparing for book reviews. The globes and maps have attracted many, showing interest in the countries involved in this war, also those interested in the countries where the boys in Service are located.

The library has been headquarters for the Victory Book Campaign for the Army and Navy. The last collection numbered 1515 books.

The story hour conducted through the summer months proved very popular with the children between the ages of six to ten.

I have given a brief account of the activities of the library and in closing wish to mention the disaster that came to the library July 26, 1943.

The lightning struck the dome and roof of the library causing great damage. Fortunately the fire did not spread to the book stack and all books were saved from fire and water.

The building was closed for two months for necessary repairs. The entire building with the exception of the book stack was under repair. A new roof was necessary, dome removed and the entire building redecorated. Fortunately the loss was covered by insurance."

### SUMMER'S ON THE WAY

If you'd like to conduct a vacation reading program for boys and girls at your library or perhaps in some particular neighborhood, the Library Commission will be glad to cooperate with you or some other adult leader by loaning a box of children's books. It will be sent as a "traveling library" loaned for three months. The only cost is the small amount for postage. Book cards are

supplied and the books may be checked out and in as many times as possible during the period.

We're sending you a poster, "It's Fun to Read," to tack up on the bulletin board to advertise your plan for a vacation reading club. You will find, too, a sample ticket. The children do like membership tickets and you can get some typist in town to run off a quantity of them for you to use in signing up the children for the club.

It is well to start your plans now so you can announce the reading club program in the school rooms before term dismissal. Then you will probably want to ask some organization to supply story tellers for the club meetings. We hear the American Association of University Women in Bluefield has been conducting successful story hours for children. At Richwood that activity has been carried out in the library. Perhaps 4-H leaders and Boy Scout directors could help. A man at Elkins enjoys telling stories to both children and adults and lately through Miss Elizabeth Ray, the librarian, he borrowed Sawyer's Way of the Storyteller and Shedlock's Art of the Storyteller from the Library Commission to get some new ideas.

Many people are very busy with war work and victory gardening but you'll find community leaders still interested in building and preserving "the good life" in the homes of West Virginia through constructive, happy reading for boys and girls.

Now is the time to work out the details of the vacation reading program. Let us know here at the Library Commission when you'd like a box of children's books sent and we will mail them to you for the very first meeting of the "Reading for Fun" club.



## PLANNING COMMITTEE

The State Planning Board has named Mrs. L. H. Leonian of Morgantown as chairman of the Library Committee to study the public library situation in West Virginia and to make recommendations for development. Mrs. Leonian brings this message to Lookout readers:

"The library-minded people of the state will be interested to know that the West Virginia Planning Board now has a Committee on Libraries: Mrs. A. D. Kenamond, Shepherdstown; Mrs. E. S. Maclin, Montgomery; Mrs. Wayne Rainer, Morgantown; State Senator O. D. Hall, Bockley; Mrs. D. E. Dean, Summersville; and Mrs. Leon H. Leonian, Morgantown, chairman.

The committee has begun to work already. Within another month we hope to have a complete survey of public libraries in the state, and to have a full report of library conditions with suggestions for the Planning Board's work in the interest of library improvement.

This committee will be glad to have your ideas as to how it can best serve. It will be glad to pass along to you ways in which you as a good citizen can help. How about beginning now? You can find out how the people who are running for legislature in your community feel toward a library program for the state. Then, vote and encourage your friends to vote for the man or woman who recognizes the need for better library facilities and who will give our program active support."

## AMMUNITION

To give you the background information you need to campaign for a better public library program



in West Virginia enclosed find two papers prepared in the office of the Library Commission, one "The Information Sheet," and the other, "Need for Continued Support from Friends of the Library."

Use the facts presented in these papers as "ammunition" in the attack to reach objective of better public support for more equalized public library service in this state. Be thoroughly familiar with the Commission's three point program outlined in the paper enclosed: 1. Need for support of its service through use. 2. To support its legislative program, to secure a better public library law. 3. To support its budget program, to secure a more adequate appropriation and to secure state aid for county library development.

#### WANT A "NEIGHBORS" LIBRARY ?

The Julius Rosenwald Fund, 4901 Ellis Ave., Chicago 15, Illinois, offers at a very special price to libraries a selection of books for children of junior and senior high school ages. The collection of fourteen books were chosen with the timely purpose of acquainting young people with their neighbors at home and abroad. The set of fourteen books which retails at \$30.00 is sold by the Rosenwald Fund for \$12.00. We have been asked by Mrs. Wm. C. Haygood, Director of Fellowships, to announce the offer so that the library could have a distribution in West Virginia. The list is divided into three groups, Americans All, Neighbors to the South, and Neighbors Around the World. For further information communicate with the Library Commission.

#### NEWSNOTES

Huntington - Miss Antoinette Renner, children's librarian at the Public Library, has been named as membership chairman of the A.L.A. Children's Section in West Virginia.

Fairmont - Miss Emma Parsons, librarian of the Teachers' College, and the new treasurer of the W. Va. L. A., writes that the entire staff of the Ohio County Public Library in Wheeling, eight librarians, are paid up members of the state Library Association. How many other library staffs can be proud of being one hundred percenters? Dues of \$1.00 are payable to Miss Parsons.

Shepherdstown - The town council has recently granted the Public Library use of practically the entire Market building. New shelves and stacks are being built in the additional space.

Charleston - The Kanawha County Public Library has through its extension department established a new "traveling library" service. Boxes of books, bookcase style, are loaned to community centers for a month. Miss Lucille Moore, the extension librarian, explains that this new system supplements the service to the county given from their bookmobile.

Beckley - Mrs. Mary A. Reese, librarian, recently suffered a broken limb from a fall on the icy pavement which necessitated a stay in the hospital. We hope she is about again.

From somewhere in England - Sgt. Charles E. Butler of the U.S. Army Air Forces, librarian on leave from the Kanawha County Public Library in Charleston, sent a contribution to the February A. L. A. Bulletin symposium, "Books that Influence American Thought and Action."

Huntington - "The Garden Book Number" of the Library Journal, March 15th issue, carries an interesting account and picture of a victory garden exhibit at the Public Library. Mrs. Madalyn M. Bradford, librarian, says the library has planned a program of exhibits throughout the year to increase use, attendance and interest in the library.

Clarksburg - Miss Ethel Green, librarian, sent clippings from local papers which carried an account of China Book Week celebration at the Public Library. A table display of books on China was arranged by Miss May Potter, children's librarian, and book lists distributed.

Williamson - Mr. S. P. Goodman, chairman of the Public Library board, writes that through the aid of local civic, fraternal and church organizations, the library has just been stimulated financially and a new Library Board appointed by the City Council. He tells us that Miss Betty West is the present librarian.

Romney - Mrs. Lilian Ladd Church reports that the Hampshire County Library Association recently held its annual meeting. Miss Speelman is in charge of book circulation on Saturday and volunteer workers serve on Wednesdays.

Morgantown - On Miss Gertrude Humphrey's page "News about Farm Women" in the W. Va. Farm News are these items to show the interest farm women are taking in books and libraries:

"The Sweet Springs farm women's club in Monroe county started the new year by purchasing a building which will be used as a club house and library. . . After making repairs in the building it will serve as a center for community affairs as well as a library center.

"The Pine Grove club in Pocahontas county has established a club library consisting largely of books donated by the members. The secretary serves as librarian and also looks after borrowing books from the W. Va. Library Commission. Book reviews will be given occasionally at club meetings.

"The Old Fields club in Hardy county reports giving \$10 to the Moorefield Public Library which now has more than 5,000 books.

"In Upshur county ten of the clubs have been reading books from the West Virginia Library Commission in Morgantown and report being much pleased with the books and the service of the commission."

#### WHAT OUR BORROWERS SAY

Believing that interest in books and reading spreads through the enthusiasm of the library's satisfied borrowers we quote here a few excerpts from letters recently received from librarians, homemakers, farmers, club leaders, teachers and others who have come to know the West Virginia Library Commission services.

Hollidays Cove - "The books arrived about 12:30 today. Almost half of the adult books are already out and it is now only 3:00 P. M."

French Creek - "Our club meeting is next week, would it be possible to get the books here in that time? Should have sent sooner if I had seen this piece in the paper sooner."

Wyatt - "I am returning Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo and Alaska Under Arms. I enjoyed reading these books very much and they were read by six others who were also glad to have such an opportunity."

Kenna - "Will you please send me some more books for little people, none over third grade level. The ones I've just returned were very good. Thank you."

Sandyville - "Thank you for the prompt book service. The children's books are especially inviting. We would like some more of the book lists in

reference to the Bible as living literature, since so many of our group are interested. Could you send on The Apostle as soon as it is in again?"

Grafton - "Thanks a million for the wonderful selection. They were all very interesting, very."

Orlando - "I would like for you to extend the time on both books. At present four persons have read one and three the other book. I appreciate so much the use of the Library."

Tioga - "The last books we had were grand. You sent me seven and they were read twenty two times. Many thanks."

Lewisburg - "Many of our people are eagerly waiting the next group of books. This traveling library has been the cause of many new people coming to get books. These along with our list of new books being purchased have increased our circulation very materially."

Sweet Springs - "I want to thank you for sending me the books on landscaping. There were a great help and the service was so prompt."

Ballard - "Am returning The St. Lawrence by Henry Beston in today's mail. It must be above the average of the "River" series. Good."

#### W. VA. WAR HISTORY

The West Virginia War History Commission was organized recently to collect and preserve the data from which will be written a history of West Virginia's part in World War II. The aim of the commission is not only to obtain correct historical information for this book, but also to preserve the important records of the war.

Mr. Festus P. Summers, Chairman, has established

headquarters at 320 Mineral Industries Building, Morgantown. He asks that individual libraries save and later submit material to show the contribution of libraries in this state to the war effort. He says,

"To obtain all the information that we need is a very large order, and we cannot hope to succeed without the cooperation of others. So we turn to you for what you may have for us: letters, pictures, clippings, speeches, news releases, broadcasts, bulletins, pamphlets, reports, posters, statistical data. Other items dealing with the war effort or reflecting its effects will also be welcome."

The War History Commission is publishing a manual and instruction sheet soon which will state more definitely the methods of procedure and objectives of the organization. Let West Virginia libraries be represented in this state history to show their educational function during the war.